

## STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES BUREAU FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Earl Ray Tomblin Governor

## Commissioner's Office

350 Capitol Street, Room 702 Charleston, West Virginia 25301-3712 Telephone: (304) 558-2971 Fax: (304) 558-1035 Karen L. Bowling Cabinet Secretary

April 4, 2016

Ms. Karen Johnson, Chief Ground Water and Enforcement Branch Office of Drinking Water and Source Water Protection U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region III 1650 Arch Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

Dear Ms. Johnson:

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health (BPH) has discussed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the necessity for development of a lifetime Health Advisory for C-8 (i.e., perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and its salts, including ammonium perfluorooctanoate acid (APFO)).

The toxicology involved with human exposure to C-8 is complex, and challenges associated with scientific studies of C-8 continue. As such, the BPH has and continues to rely upon the expertise and resources of the EPA to review and evaluate the potential risk to human health presented by exposure to C-8. We believe it is important to establish a lifetime Health Advisory for C-8 in drinking water that reduces exposure to the public. The BPH not only encourages the EPA to establish the lifetime Health Advisory, but is also relying upon the expertise of the EPA in this matter.

With regard to the DuPont Washington Works facility, as you are aware, the drinking water supplies located near the facility are presently covered under the Consent Order issued on March 10, 2009 (Docket Number SDWA-03-2009-0127-DS). As discussed between our agencies, the BPH requests that the EPA take requisite action to make the necessary revisions to the March 10, 2009 Consent Order that would incorporate any changes made to the interim Health Advisory or that would be reflective of an established lifetime Health Advisory. This action is important to continue protecting the health of residents in the area currently affected by the Consent Order and to appropriately incorporate any other residents whose drinking water is found to exceed the C-8 values that may be established in a revised interim or new lifetime Health Advisory.

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We appreciate the continued support and cooperation of the EPA in the regulation of C-8. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Walter Ivey, Director, Office of Environmental Health Services, 350 Capitol Street, Room 313, Charleston, West Virginia 25301. Mr. Ivey can also be reached by telephone at (304) 356-4272 or via email at <a href="mailto:walter.m.ivey@wv.gov">walter.m.ivey@wv.gov</a>.

Sincerely,

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Rahul Gupta, MD, MPH, FACP Commissioner and State Health Officer

RG:nb

cc: Walter M. Ivey